

torn away from her home, from father and mother and from her native country by cruel soldiers. She might have felt bitterly against Naaman and not even revealed the fact that that there was one who could cure his leprosy. But instead of this she looked upon her captive in pity and longed to see him cured. This was nine hundred years before Christ came and taught the beautiful lesson of forgiveness both by precept and example, yet this Hebrew girl lived out that law of love in her spirit and conduct toward those who had cruelly wronged her. Boys and girls should learn this lesson as to how we should treat even our enemies. We know Christ and the gospel and surely we ought to live no less of Christianity than this little maid did so long ago.

3. *A Humble Position.*—It does not matter what position we occupy in life we can yet be helpful to others. Joseph, a captive in Egypt becomes a great blessing to the whole nation and even to his cruel brothers. Daniel in a heathen country becomes the savior of that land. There is no position in life that does not have its opportunities of usefulness. Everything depends on our own spirit. If your place is that of a cash-boy in the store, an errand-boy, or a girl serving in the family, you may become a blessing to those around you if you have the real spirit of Christ.

4. *"I Thought."*—So said Naaman and so say a good many yet, and like Naaman they are not healed until they change their mind. There are so many people who have their own idea as to how they are to be saved, and in most cases it is a way different from that appointed by the Lord. Their proud nature revolts against the humble doctrines of grace, and the way of the cross is not the way they want to go. Naaman came almost missing the blessed gift of healing and thousands miss the gift of salvation because the plan of redemption is not according to their own ideas.

To Make You Think

1. Who was Naaman? 2. What good qualities did he possess? 3. How had he obtained the eminent position he held? 4. What was his one fearful trouble? 5. What do you know about this disease? 6. How is it a type of sin? 7. What little preacher of religion is mentioned in this lesson? 8. What lesson does she teach us? 9. Can we serve God anywhere? 10. How did the little maid know of the man in Israel who could heal? 11. Is it likely that she was well instructed in childhood? 12. In what particular may she be considered a faithful girl? 13. What three mistakes did Naaman make? 14. On what conditions was he to be healed? 15. When he went to Jordan did he believe that the washing would make him whole? 16. Was it faith that healed him or the washing? 17. Why was that washing necessary? 18. What corresponds to that in our salvation? 19. Does baptism now save people? 20. Does not Peter say that it will? 21. Are all God's blessings conditional? 22. Why

would the prophet heal one who was an enemy of Israel? 23. Would that likely make him a friend? 24. What gratitude did Naaman show for the blessing of health? 25. Is salvation from sin a greater blessing?

Lesson Points

1. In every life is the fatal "but."
2. Even a child can preach the gospel.
3. The gospel has but one message for all.
4. In salvation it is not *our* but *God's* way.
5. Many are lost thro vanity and pride.
6. God's cures are always complete.
7. There is one gospel for great and small.
8. The healed soul should be grateful to God.

Helpful Illustrations

Naaman the leper. He was next to the king. He was rich. He was surrounded with splendor, and his gifts for the prophet were worthy of a king's ransom. Strength, honor, riches, power—all were his. "But—he was a leper!" How that little phrase changes it all! It is like a wet sponge erasing the list of his blessings. A single "but," like a decimal point before millions, reduces all the gifts of fortune to fractions of trifling value.—*E. M. Noyes.*

The little maid. The Bible continually emphasizes the value of humble folk in the divine economy. Moses was the son of a slave. Joseph and Daniel were prisoners who rose to almost royal power. David was a shepherd lad, the youngest of his father's sons. Amos was a rustic, but the king trembled before him. The apostles were but fishermen. Our Lord himself chose the humblest surroundings for his earthly life. The list of "poor boys who became famous" in the service of God and their fellows is a long one. "The things that are despised, did God choose."—*Monday Club.*

Seeking salvation in the wrong place. There are still many earnest seekers after salvation who go to the king instead of the prophet, and are disappointed. Some seek salvation from their own good deeds, acts of kindness, or honesty. But they cannot there find forgiveness and a new heart. Some seek it in forms of worship, in acts of prayer and devotion, but they misunderstand the very nature of salvation. Some expect to be saved because they belong to respectable classes, and are members of the church. So the Pharisees believed that they would be saved because they were children of Abraham, no matter what their lives or hearts might be. Some look to science and knowledge for salvation. But all these alone, while helps by the way, are powerless to save men.—*Peloubet.*

The profits which we might make and which we sacrifice in order to keep a clean conscience add to our wealth, for they make us "rich towards God." Hoarding money, stealing time from prayer and Bible-reading, nursing popularity, are all wretchedly impoverishing. Giving up for Christ is an enriching process.—*I. L. Cuyler, D. D.*

The Mission Field

CHICAGO MISSION

Dear Readers: Conference is almost at hand; are we ready for it? If not, hasten to make ready. There will be much to accomplish in those six days. Are we looking forward to the many things that must be brought before the conference, discussed and decided upon, saturating every thought with prayer to God for a complete guidance of the Holy Spirit. This work is no light thing to think of; within ourselves we can do nothing, but all things are possible with God and to Him we must look for wisdom. He has promised it, then let us possess ourselves with this glorious promise and seek His wisdom. Not the only important work, but one of *much* importance will be that of missions—its works and plans to carry out the work. "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Ah yes! we need a Paul to come over to Chicago and preach the gospel. These are solemn, important questions. Our thoughts follow over the entire brotherhood and wonder how many are giving these their serious, earnest thoughts, going to God for divine instruction, or will many wait, not considering these things till the questions are placed before the conference. Chicago is not the only mission place; there are others that need the same earnest thought and attention. May God help us each and all to be fully awakened to the import of our duties in the missionary cause, its interest and advancement. Another great important question—the college. I was so rejoiced to read the announcement that our college would open Sept. 6th. We need its advantages to drill and prepare our young men and women for the fields of battle. This must be acted upon with the same spirit, likewise many other questions that we can not mention. But do not fail to get ready for conference. Come and stay from beginning to end.

A SURPRISE

This morning (Aug. 2nd) I was busy at home when some one asked at the door for me. I answered, the expressman said, "I have a barrel for you." What are the charges?" "It's paid." I signed his book and the barrel was brought up, soon with the hatchet it was being opened. Sister Barth with the children and myself were anxious to see the contents. In a few moments the head was out. Oh, oh! a murmur from each one. Praise the Lord. We knelt and thanked Him who is the giver of every good gift, and for the brotherly love of the brethren and sisters at Milledgeville, Ill., who with love and prayer had filled and sent it full of canned fruit and vegetables. We appreciate them and it was thankfully received, pleasure both there and here. The Lord will bestow His divine blessings upon them.

Regardless of excessive hot weather since our last report the work has been moving along slowly; some of our faithful Sunday-